

# California State Senate

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SENATOR  
**KELLY SEYARTO**  
THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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TRANSPORTATION

September 21, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## RE: Veto Request – Assembly Bill 665

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you veto Assembly Bill 665.

This bill, if implemented, would authorize minors who are 12 years or older and on Medi-Cal to consent to mental health treatment or residential shelter services if they are mature enough to participate intelligently, in the opinion of the attending professional person. The bill also eliminates the previously existing requirement that a minor be a harm to themselves, a harm to others, or a victim of abuse, before they can consent to residential shelter services.

This means any 12 year old child can run away from home without showing any harm or abuse and be admitted into a residential shelter without the knowledge of their parents. This presumably would lead to them becoming a ward of the state and eventually adopted by another family.

Parents in my district and throughout California are greatly troubled with the multitude of bills cutting parents out of their children's lives. Helping children separate themselves from their families without any justification of abuse or harm is counter-productive and will only fuel the epidemic of enduring childhood trauma and loneliness.

Furthermore, I am concerned that shelter staff are left to interpret what "intelligent participation" means from a legal and medical perspective without any legal or medical training. The language of this bill is so vague, it makes shelter staff the ultimate arbiters of a child's mental state and reasoning for running away. These provisions are completely unreasonable and frankly dangerous for all individuals involved.

I respectfully request that you veto AB-665, and I thank you for your time to read this letter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (916) 651-4032.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Seyarto".

Kelly Seyarto  
Senate, 32<sup>nd</sup> District